

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 04723 150451Z

10
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 068686

O R 150425Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6357
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4723

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLS PASS CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AS, SN, US
SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES

1. ACTING AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARDS JUST INFORMED ME THAT ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM CANBERRA HE HAS APPROACHED GOS ON SUBJECT OF PROJECTED USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AS PER POSITION WORKED OUT BETWEEN U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE AUTHORITIES. EDWARDS' APPROACH WAS TO MINDEF PERMSEC PANG TEE POW, NO GOS OFFICIAL OF MINISTERIAL RANK BEING AVAILABLE, AND PANG WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY NONCOMMITTAL. THIS OF COURSE IS NOT SURPRISING, SINCE PANG LACKS THE AUTHORITY TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN PASS POLICY ISSUES OF THIS MAGNITUDE ALONG TO HIGHER ECHELONS.

2. EDWARDS EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ACT AT THIS TIME, SAYING HE HAD THOUGHT THAT NOTHING WOULD BE DONE ON SUBJECT BY AUSTRALIANS PRIOR TO MEETINGS BETWEEN PMS FRASER AND LEE KUAN YEW DURING LATTERS'S AUSTRALIA VISIT. WE SPECULATED THAT CANBERRA MAY HAVE WANTED TO HAVE PM LEE KUAN YEW FOCUS ON QUESTION OF U.S. AIRCRAFT USE OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES BEFORE DEPARTING FOR AUSTRALIA SO THAT HE WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO GO OVER THE GROUND WITH FRASER. LEE LEAVES

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SINGAPORE SATURDAY NIGHT OCTOBER 16.

HOLDRIDGE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CINCPAC.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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